

Message Text

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ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 A-01 /015 W

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P R 121631Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2865

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2008

RSS SENDS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR MARINE SECURITY GUARDS

AT AMEMBASSY SANAA

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO AMEMBASSY SANA'A, AT WHICH TIME ENTIRE SECURITY PROGRAM THAT POST EXAMINED BY RSS AND DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR AND WITH RSO, BECAME EVIDENT THAT RELIANCE UPON HOST GOVERNMENT AND CONTRACT GUARDS FAILS PROVIDE REQUIRED MINIMUM PROTECTION IN THREE AREAS, NAMELY(A) PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR AMBASSADOR, OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS; (B) PROTECTION AGAINST TECHNICAL PENETRATIONS; (C) PROTECTION OF PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES IN POTENTIAL INSTABILITY, DISSIDENCE AND E& E SITUATIONS.

2. INSUFFICIENCY OF CURRENT RELIANCE UPON NON-AMERICAN PERSONNEL STEMS FROM VERY LOW LEVEL OF TRAINING OF YEMEN MILITARY GUARDS, THEIR LACK OF DISCIPLINE AND POSSIBLE LACK OF LOYALTY AND DECISIVENESS

IN EVENT OF POLITICAL CRISES. RSO HAS DONE REMARKABLE JOB OF RECRUITING AND TRAINING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE DETAIL AND THESE PERSONNEL WOULD BE RETAINED BU TPOST SHOULD HAVE CAPABILITY OF BACKSTOPPING SUCH PERSONNEL DURING PERIODS OF HARD THREAT. ALL APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITH EMBASSY CONCUR THAT YEMEN UNIQUELY VULNERABLE TO INCURSIONS OF HOSTILES TO CARRY OUT ASSASSINATIONS.

3. FINAL DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR PRIOR DEPARTURE OF RSS RESULTED IN AGREEMENT THAT AMBASSADOR WILL REACH DECISION ON
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MARINES IN VERY NEAR FUTURE AFTER FURTHER STUDY OF OF PROS AND CONS

AND WILL DETERMINE WHETHER HOST GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT MSG ASSIGNMENT. NEGATIVE FACTORS PRINCIPALLY RELATE TO POSSIBLE MSG MORALE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, SWIMMING POOL, TENNIS COURT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUNTING, ETC., WILL MITIGATE RIGORS OF PROJECTED ONE YEAR TOUR. ESTABLISHMENT OF MSG DETACHMENT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL SELECTION OF NCOIC AND WATCHSTANDERS. NCOIC SHOULD NOT BE MARRIED, UNLESS WIFE FULLY QUALIFIED FOR HIRE IN AVAILABLE EMBASSY POSITION.

4. IF AUTHORIZATION OF MSG DETACHMENT IS APPROVED, BASED UPON REQUEST BY AMBASSADOR BEIRUT RMO WILL ARRANGE FOR EARLY VISIT TO SANA'A TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF HOUSING AND LOGISTICS.

4. RSS STRONGLY URGES ESTABLISHMENT OF MSG DETACHMENT AT SANA'A AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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